expressing the DNA molecule in the monocotyledonous plant to confer tolerance to salt stress and drought stress in the plant.

C1 cont'd

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the monocotyledonous plant is selected from the group consisting of rice, wheat, maize, barley, oat, rye, millet, and sorghum.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the monocotyledonous plant is rice.

C2

4. (Twice-Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the DNA molecule that increases tolerance to salt stress and drought stress is selected from the group consisting of a Δ^1-pyrroline-5-carboxylate synthetase gene, *P5CS*-129A, *Hva1*, COR47, a mannitol 1-P-dehydrogenase gene, a gene for the biosynthesis of polyamines, and a gene for the biosynthesis of glycine betaine, trehalose, D-ononitol or fructans.

C3

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the minimal promoter is Act1-100 of rice, a shortened α-amylase promoter of barley or rice, a shortened maize ubiquitin promoter, or a shortened CaMV 35S promoter.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one abscisic acid response complex unit is from a barley *HVA22* gene or a barley *HVA1* gene.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the expression cassette comprises up to four of the abscisic acid response complex units operably linked together.

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the expression cassette further comprises:

a DNA sequence coding a selectable marker.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the expression cassette is salt stress or drought stress inducible.

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said transforming comprises:

propelling particles at cells of the monocotyledonous plant under conditions effective for the particles to penetrate into the cell interior and

introducing a plasmid comprising the at least one abscisic acid response complex unit, the minimal promoter, and the DNA molecule that increases tolerance to salt stress and drought stress in plants into the cell interior.

C3 cont'd

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the plasmid is selected from the group consisting of pJS112, pJP21, and pJPM001.

12. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the plasmid is associated with the particles, whereby the plasmid is carried into the cell interior together with the particles.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the plasmid surrounds the cell and is drawn into the cell interior with the particles.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said transforming comprises:

contacting tissue of the monocotyledonous plant with an inoculum of a bacterium of the genus *Agrobacterium*, wherein the bacterium is transformed with a plasmid comprising the at least one abscisic acid response complex unit, the minimal promoter, and the DNA molecule that increases tolerance to salt stress and drought stress in plants.

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the plasmid is selected from the group consisting of pJS112, pJP21, and pJPM001.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the bacterium of the genus *Agrobacterium* is *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the tissue is selected from protoplasts, cells, or calli derived from mature embryo or immature embryo of rice, wheat, maize, barley, oat, rye, millet, or sorghum.